Amendments to the Claims

Claims 1-12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently amended) A system for capturing attributes of a biometric object, comprising:

an electro-optical biometric image capturing system; and

a heater assembly coupled to said electro-optical biometric image capturing system for enhancing performance of said electro-optical biometric image capturing system;

wherein said electro-optical biometric image capturing system includes an optical path, and said heater assembly is attached to a surface of said electro-optical biometric image capturing system that is outside the optical path,

such that the heater assembly heats a biometric object receiving surface of said electro-optical biometric image capturing system to eliminate additional moisture near a biometric object on said biometric object receiving surface without interfering in the optical path.

Claims 14-15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently amended) A heating apparatus for heating a prism of an electronic image capturing device having a light path, thereby preventing a halo effect in an image of a biometric object resting on a platen, comprising:

a first heater assembly coupled to a first end of the prism wherein the first end of the prism is located outside the light path; and

a second heater assembly coupled to a second end of the prism wherein the second end of the prism is located outside the light path;

wherein said first heater assembly and said second heater assembly each include a heating element for generating heat in the prism, thereby causing temperature in the prism to rise such that a halo effect is prevented from forming on the image of the biometric object.

17. (Original) The heating apparatus of claim 16, further comprising a thermostat controller which controls the amount of heat provided by said first heater assembly and said second heater assembly.

18. (Original) The heating apparatus of claim 17, wherein said thermostat controller controls the amount of heat provided by each heater assembly as a function of heater assembly temperature.

19. (Currently amended) The heating apparatus of claim 17, wherein the thermostat controller [[\]] controls the amount of heat provided such that each heater assembly operates in one of three states including:

a full power state;

a half power state; and

a no power state.

20. (Original) The heating apparatus of claim 16, wherein the surface of the prism is a glass platen.

21. (Original) The heating apparatus of claim 16, wherein the surface of the prism is a silicone pad.

22. (Original) The heating apparatus of claim 16, wherein said heating element is a resistive heating element.

Claims 23-24. (Cancelled)